

not prior art against claim 3. Ciovacco was filed June 27, 2003. This application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-046755 ('755 application), which was filed February 25, 2003 and No. 2004-026534 ('534 application), which was filed February 3, 2004. Claim 3 is supported by the disclosure of the '755 application. Applicants submit with this Amendment a sworn translation of the '755 application. The filing date of the '755 application, February 25, 2003, is before the filing date of Ciovacco. Accordingly, Ciovacco is not prior art against the invention of claim 3.

The rejection of claim 3 under 35 USC 103(a) on Siniaguine and Ciovacco should be withdrawn because Ciovacco is not prior art against the invention of claim 3.

In light of the above, a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952**, referencing Docket No. **606402016900**.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



Barry E. Bretschneider
Registration No. 28,055

Morrison & Foerster LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard, Suite 300
McLean, VA 22102-3915
Telephone: (703) 760-7743
Facsimile: (703) 760-7777